

23 March 1977

NOTE FOR: DDCI

SUBJECT: Pre-NFIB Briefing 24 March 1977: Two Major Drafts

1. Attached is your book for the 24 March NFIB Pre-Brief and 28 March NFIB meeting. Of the three agenda items, two involve estimate-type drafts: SNIE 85-1-77, which concerns issues related to the normalization of Cuban/US relations; and NIAM 76.1-1-77: The Ethiopian Revolution and its Implications. There are background memoranda on each of these drafts in your book; the Cuba memo points out some fairly important areas of contention.

2. The Cuban SNIE looks pretty good to me. Much of the work done on it has been incorporated [redacted] which raises the question as to whether this SNIE is really necessary. That to one side, I do have a quibble with paragraph 29 on page 17, specifically the phrase "providing there is evidence that the US is actually enforcing its laws against exile terrorists...." This suggests that we are not enforcing our laws now. Also, inasmuch as most Cuban exile terrorist activity takes place outside the US, I wonder what our law enforcement capabilities against them really are. Furthermore, if read the wrong way, the passage suggests that we have specific laws against exile terrorists. [redacted] suggests, to prevent ambiguity, that it be changed to "enforcing its criminal laws with respect to the activities of Cuban exile terrorists..." that is, if you want to keep it in at all.

3. You will find the Key Judgments of this SNIE on pages i-iii.

4. The NIAM on Ethiopia also looks pretty good, except for a number of typos, particularly in the "Introduction and Principle Points" section, pages 1-4, which was written last. In this section, I had a slight uneasiness with the description of Ethiopia in the past as a "client," page 1, line 10 (a minor point). On page 4, the word "shrink" in the third line from the end seems awkward. On pages 13-14, I felt the description of the EPRP could be enhanced by an indication of how many members this party has, or some other quantitative indication of its strength. Also, the information on [redacted]

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[redacted]

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5. Also, and no doubt this is being done, it certainly would seem useful for the NIAM to include some graphics, particularly to show where Ethiopia's various provinces are located. Some indication of the location and size of the tribal groupings frequently referred to in the text might also be helpful.



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